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STATE ARMY

- On 25 August 1953, a conference attended by about 40 SED activists of Bau Union Potsdam took place. Engler, secretary of the SED cell of the Bau Union, gave a report on the events of 17 June and their effect on the construction projects executed by the Bau Union. He stated that the workers of 95 percent of the conatruction sites of the firm participated in the strikes staged after 17 June and that a total of 248 skilled construction workers had left the firm after giving notice. Many FDGB members including numerous SED members turned in their membership cards. Construction supervisors complained about the low morale of construction workers, while the workers were dissatisfied with the poor quarters made available to them at construction sites.
- 2. Beckmann, chief of the SED cell at the Stalinstadt construction site, stated that several workers had told him that X-day would soon be repeated. Another chief of an SED cell, Bastian from the Wuensdorf-Zossen construction site, reported that an underground organization was operating at the construction site. The members of this organization revealed their membership to each other by secret signs. Bastian said that he had obtained this information from a brickleyer who belonged to this underground organization, but disappeared when he became aware that he had been compromised.
- 3. Wunderling, FDJ secretary of the Bau Union Potsdam, stated that of 1,000 apprenvices who were members of the FDJ, about 400 belonged to the Junge Gemeinde, the youth organization of the Protestant Church in East Germany. The members of the Junge Gemeinde had a strong influence on the apprentices. Mateplowski, chief of the Planning Department of the Bau Union, announced that the production plan of the firm had been fulfilled only 63 percent during the first half of 1953. Competitions after the Soviet pattern were rejected by the German workers. Dittbrenner, chief of the Investment Department, stated that the Bau Union Firms in Potsdam, Brandenburg and Leipzig were faced with financial bankruptcy and that they could continue operating only through government loans.
- 4. According to statements made by all chiefs of party cells at the various construction sites, KVP recruiting commissions of 2 or 3 men were active at all construction sites. Special efforts were being made to recruit juveniles who had just completed their apprenticeship. Those who volunteered were promised further professional training and even study at a technical school while they were serving with the KVP. At Hennigsdorf four juveniles accepted the offer and joined the

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